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Time Inc.

May 9, 1986

Mr. William J. Casey
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Bill:

I have read your speech to the American Society of Newspaper Editors which George Lauder forwarded at your request. I agree with what you say. Certainly it is crucial to protect sensitive national security information. And while I share your view that the chief responsibility for this lies with government, I have always believed that the press must play its part. One can disagree on specifics, but certainly not on the principle.

Concerning the recent flap, I must say that I regret the fact that you told a leading journalist that you were considering criminal prosecution of TIME and others, without informing us of this and without letting us know what the charge might be. I happen to be a strong, not to say vehement, advocate of an effective CIA and a far less restricted capacity for covert action. Quite apart from that, our publications would never knowingly violate the law in the security or any other area, which is why your unspecified accusations were so disturbing. But I hope and believe that in spite of this the Agency and TIME's journalists will continue the good relationship we have had over the years.

Sincerely,

Time, Life, Fortune, Sports Illustrated, Money, People, Discover, Time-Life Books

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